

Application No. 10/604,137
Docket No. A3-1641
Amendment dated September 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] In use, the base 20 is placed directly beneath the basketball rim 12, and the arms 22 are arranged to extend radially outward from the base 20. The base 20 is preferably round and formed of a non-skid material, ~~nonmaterial~~, such as rubber matting. By constructing the arms 20 of individual straps 32, the lengths of the arms 22 can be varied, e.g., distances from the base 20 corresponding to the free throw line, a corner shot, the three-point range, medium shot range, short shot range, etc. The arms 22 can be attached to the base 20 and the shooting markers 24 with VELCRO (hook-and-loop fastener) ~~Velcro~~ or any other releasable or permanent attachment means. The shooting markers 24 are preferably detachable to allow the user to focus on specific shooting areas. As with the base 20, the shooting markers 24 are preferably round and formed of a non-skid material, ~~nonmaterial~~, (e.g., rubber matting), and serve to give the shooter a spot-up position.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

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[0010] The vision markers 26 are preferably in a form that can be releasably attached to the rim 12. For example, the vision markers 26 may be in the form of separate plastic clips that individually mount to the rim 12 as shown in Figure 1, or in the form of separate plastic clips that individually mount to a tube 34 as shown in Figure 2, or in the form of colored sections of the tube 34 shown in Figure 2. To provide for releasable attachment, the markers 26 (e.g., clips) or the tube 34 to which the markers 26 are mounted preferably have a C-shaped cross-section. Alternatively, the markers 26 could be in the form of VELCRO (hook-and-loop fastener) ~~Velcro~~ straps, which may be more durable and easily replaceable than a tube or individual plastic clips. Because the vision markers 26 are located on the rim 12 in positions corresponding to radials defined by the arms 22, and therefore on the near edge of the rim 12 nearest the shooter, each marker 26 provides a readily visible focal point to improve vision, shooting technique and accuracy. As such, the apparatus 10 enables a shooter to spot up on a color-coded shooting marker 24 located on one of the arms 22, and then shoot in the radial direction defined by the arm 22 (preferably of the same color) toward the corresponding vision marker 26 of the same color as the shooting marker 24.

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Please replace the paragraph in the Abstract of Disclosure with the amended paragraph submitted herewith on a separate sheet pursuant to 37 CFR 1.72.